

County Profiles 2014: Executive Summary

Washington State Prescription Monitoring Program

- Washington pharmacies process about a million controlled substance prescriptions per month, which is almost enough for every Washington state resident to have two prescriptions per year.
- Nearly three of every ten Washingtonians obtained a prescription for a controlled substance in 2014. The counties with the highest rate of residents filling prescriptions for controlled substances were Garfield, Lewis, and Stevens. The counties with the lowest rates were Klickitat, Adams, and Island.
- More than half of the controlled substance prescriptions were for an opioid.
- Nearly one-fourth of all Washington residents received at least one opioid prescription during 2014. The counties with the highest rate of residents filling prescriptions for any controlled substance also had the highest rate of filling an opioid prescription.
- Hydrocodone was the most frequently prescribed opioid in every county. In most counties, oxycodone was the second most often prescribed opioid.
- Tramadol was designated as a controlled substance on August 18, 2014, and is now counted as one of the most frequently prescribed opioids in the state.
- Females received prescriptions for most controlled substances at higher rates than males. Rates for most controlled substance prescriptions were higher at older ages. Exceptions were the central nervous system (CNS) stimulants dextroamphetamine/amphetamine and methylphenidate. These drugs were most frequently prescribed for school-age children, and more often for boys than girls.

